

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Department of State

INCOMING
TELEGRAM

PAGE 01 242127Z
ACTION INR-10

1836

242127Z

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 SY-05 HA-06 PM-07 SYE-00 /045 W
-----187375 251336Z /51

R 242126Z FEB 81
FM JCS WASHINGTON DC
INFO CSA WASHINGTON DC
CNO WASHINGTON DC
CSAF WASHINGTON DC
CIA WASHINGTON DC
SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC
CHC CC WASHINGTON DC
DIRNSA FT GEORGE G MEADE MD
241849Z FEB 81
FM [REDACTED]
TO DIA WASHINGTON DC
INFO [REDACTED]
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PN//SCJ2-1AD//
DIA WASHINGTON DC//DB-3E1//

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DIA FOR IR BRANCH

SUBJ: [REDACTED] (U)

THIS IS AN INFO REPORT AND NOT FINALLY EVALUATED INTEL

1. (U) CTRY: BRAZIL [REDACTED]
2. (U) TITLE: THE CHURCH IN JUIZ DE FORA, MINAS GERAIS
3. (U) DATE OF INFO: 810210
4. (U) ORIG: [REDACTED]
5. (U) REQ REFS: [REDACTED]
6. (U) SOURCE: DTS: [REDACTED]

7. SUMMARY: ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THE RELATIONS OF CHURCH AND MILITARY IN JUIZ DE FORA, MINAS GERAIS, ARE "CORRECT" BUT HARDLY WARM. THE MAJORITY OF THE ARMY OFFICERS STATIONED IN JUIZ DE FORA CONSIDER THE LOCAL TO BE "...A LEFTIST BUT A QUIET ONE THEREFORE ACCEPTABLE."

8A. DETAILS: ACCORDING TO SOURCE, THE BISHOP OF JUIZ DE FORA IS "...A LEFTIST BUT A QUIET ONE THERE ACCEPTABLE." HE CONTINUED TO SAY, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILITARY OFFICERS AND CHURCH OFFICIALS IN THE CITY ARE "CORRECT" BUT HARDLY WARM. SOURCE STATED HE BELIEVES THE PROBLEM WITH THE CHURCH ACTUALLY HAD ITS START WHEN THE CHURCH PLAYED SUCH A VITAL ROLE IN THE DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT OF BRAZIL AND NOW THE CHURCH CANNOT RESIGN ITSELF TO CARING FOR THE SOULS BUT INSISTS ON INTERFERING WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES. SOURCE SAID THE CHURCH CAN ALWAYS BE EXPECTED TO REACT STRONGLY TO ANY ATTACK. HE MENTIONED THE CASE OF THE PRIEST OF A NEARBY TOWN ACCUSED OF CAUSING THE DEATH DURING ABORTION OF A PARISHIONER WHO SAID HE WOULD BE SURPRISED IF THE CHURCH DIDN'T ATTEMPT TO PUSH EVERYTHING UNDER THE RUG. IN DISCUSSING THE CHURCH IN OTHER AREAS, HE NOTED MILITARY-CHURCH RELATIONS WERE MUCH WORSE IN BELO HORIZONTE WHERE THE CHURCH IS MUCH MORE ACTIVE. HE ALSO CLAIMED "...THAT BISHOP CASALDAGLIA IN MATO GROSSO IS AN OUT AND OUT COMMUNIST. HE ALWAYS SUPPORTED FIDEL CASTRO AND IS PREACHING REVOLUTION IN BRAZIL." THE BISHOP IS CAUSING CONSIDERABLE PROBLEMS FOR THE ADMINISTRATION SINCE THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT DIRECTLY CONFRONT THE CHURCH WITHOUT SUFFERING A BLACK EYE ACCORDING TO SOURCE. HE CONTINUED "YOU CAN ALWAYS ARGUE DOWN A POLITICIAN BY PRESENTING THE FACTS BUT PRIESTS AND BISHOPS ARE A SPECIAL CASE AND MUST BE HANDLED WITH KID GLOVES AND THE CHURCH KNOWS IT AND USES ITS SPECIAL POSITION."

8B. ORIG COMMENTS: A SURVEY OF OTHER OFFICERS IN THE JUIZ DE FORA AREA GENERALLY CONFIRMED SOURCE'S ASSESSMENT OF CHURCH-MILITARY RELATIONS. THE "QUIET LEFTIST BISHOP" OF JUIZ DE FORA STEPPED OUT OF CHARACTER TO MAKE A STRIDENT ATTACK IN THE NEWSPAPERS IN DEFENSE OF THE

PRIEST ACCUSED OF THE WOMAN'S ABORTION DEATH. UNFORTUNATELY THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH THE MILITARY OFFICERS AFTER THE BISHOP'S COUNTERATTACK. THE NEWS COVERAGE IN JUIZ DE FORA OF THE UNTOWARD INCIDENT WAS SENSATIONAL AS ONE WOULD EXPECT WITH AN EXPLOSIVE TRIANGLE OF A PRIEST, A PREGNANT PARISHIONER, AND AN ABORTION DEATH IN A CATHOLIC COUNTRY. SOURCE'S ACCUSATIONS OF LEFTIST AND COMMUNIST MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH IS A THEME POPULAR WITH THE RIGHT AND MANY MEMBERS OF THE CENTER SEGMENT OF THE BRAZILIAN OFFICERS CORPS. A RECENT ARTICLE BY ADIRSON DE BARRIOS, A RIO BASED COLUMNIST, WHO SPEAKS FROM THE RIGHT WING OF THE MILITARY MADE SIMILAR CHARGES OF COMMUNIST INFLUENCE IN THE NOVA IGUAÇU CHURCH. IN FACT DE BARRIOS CALLED THE BISHOP OF NOVA IGUAÇU A COMMUNIST. THE PLETHORA OF CHARGES MAY SEEM FOOLISH TO A DISPASSIONATE OBSERVER BUT THE FACT REMAINS THE RIGHT BELIEVES IT AND IS SAYING IT BOTH PRIVATELY AND IN PUBLIC.

9. (U) PROJ NO: NONE
 10. (U) COLL MGMT CODES: AC
 11. (U) SPEC INST: DIRC-NO
 12. (U) PREP BY: [REDACTED]
 13. (U) APP BY: [REDACTED]
 14. (U) REQ EVAL: NO REL TO: NA
 15. (U) ENCL: NONE
 16. (U) DIST BY ORIG: NONE
- DECLAS 19 FEB 87

EOT

FOIA(b)(3) - 10 USC 424 - DIA, NRO and NSA

Declassified
Authority: 43265 By:
Brewer Thompson Date:
06-02-2015

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NW#: 43265

DocId: 32477729